

Some
Roman Catholic
Books.

It may be that the Pope's name will give a certain status to the little book on the *Practice of Humility* (1) which he composed while Bishop of Perugia ; but it is pretty certain that the work will not add any glory to the Pope's reputation as the sovereign Pontiff. It is a simple little treatise such as any pious Romanist might compile. At the end of it the Pope puts extracts from several of the Fathers of the Church, and one can hardly read them without feeling that they confute some of the statements in the body of the work. For example, on page 84 the reader is advised to address himself to Mary as the mother of God ; and on page 87 to the Saints ; but there is no such recommendation by any of the Fathers quoted at the end of the book ; and the prayer from the Imitation, which concludes the work, is directed solely to God, the source and giver of all good. The treatise is furnished, we cannot say adorned, with a portrait of the Pope, which is anything but a flattering likeness.

The author of *Theological Influence of the Blessed Virgin on the Apostolic School* (2) sets himself to prove that the historic evidence for the Deity of Jesus Christ *hangs on the facts given by the Blessed Virgin to the Gospel writers* and to the Apostolic band ; and he makes a great show of helping out his argument from the writings of Rénan. It may well be that certain of the facts of the Gospel history were told to the Evangelists by the Blessed Virgin ; but that by no means proves her title to the worship and adoration which the Romish Church accords her. The author in one part of the work goes into some evolutionary theory about virgin births, quoting Haëckel's dictum about honey bees ; and seems therefrom to draw proofs of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, but the proofs are far-fetched and not logical. The work is embellished with an engraving of an Italian fresco of the Virgin, of the date of the 14th century. This is at the beginning, and at the end is a poor little engraving of the head of the Saviour, and the size and position of these pictures seem to indicate the gist of the book which, if it serves any purpose, is intended to exalt the Blessed Virgin at the expense of the Son of Man.

In *The Haydock Papers* (3) Mr. Gillow gives us a glimpse into English Catholic life under the shade of persecution and the dawn of freedom. "The Haydocks of Cottam" are inseparably associated with the history and traditions of Lancashire, and may be regarded as a typical (Roman) Catholic family. The papers are not